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JULY 1970

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
VETERANS WELFARE COMMISSION

TO THE
GOVERNOR OF MONTANA
HONORABLE FORREST H. ANDERSON

FOR THE
FISCAL YEAR ENDED

June 30, 1970

STATE OF MONTANA
VETERANS WELFARE COMMISSION
HELENA, MONT. 59601

The Honorable Forrest H. Anderson
Governor
State of Montana
Helena, Montana 59601

Dear Governor Anderson:

In accordance with the requirements of Section 82-4002, R. C. M. 1947, there is herewith transmitted to you the report of the Veterans Welfare Commission covering the fiscal year ended June 30, 1970.

This report contains the activities and accomplishments of the VWC. This consists of the number of veterans and dependent contacts made during the year; the number of claims filed with the Veterans Administration; and the monetary value of the claims successfully established.

Due to the increasing work load it is recommended that another field office be established.

Respectfully submitted,

Harry E. Sawyer
Director

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PRINCIPAL OFFICERS

VETERANS WELFARE COMMISSION

OFFICER TERM OF OFFICE	HOME ADDRESS
Charles Lelek, Chairman 5-18-66 to 5-18-73	115 E. Main, Lewistown
Leslie Eskildsen, Vice-Chairman 5-18-69 to 5-18-74	Malta
William C. Hardie, Secretary 5-18-66 to 5-18-71	429 No. 33rd St., Billings
Russell W. Lindborg, Member 5-18-67 to 5-18-72	1860 35th St., Missoula
Vince Caciari, Member 5-18-70 to 5-18-75	35 Columbia Ave., Whitefish

PRINCIPAL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Harry E. Sawyer, Director

PRINCIPAL OFFICE

Horsky Building, Helena, Montana

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LEGAL REFERENCES

GENERAL

The statutes relating to the operations of the Veterans Welfare Commission are contained in Sections 77-1001 to 77-1011 of the Revised Codes of Montana 1947.

Operating policies necessary to administer statutory requirements are contained in the Veterans Administration Regulations. The Specific day to day operations of the Veterans Welfare Commission are largely confined to being a liaison between Montana veterans, and their dependents, and the Veterans Administration.

PRINCIPAL GOAL

The Veterans Welfare Commission exists to provide a means whereby veterans, and their dependents, obtain Federal benefits due them from the Veterans Administration.

PROGRAM INVENTORY AND COST SUMMARY

<u>Program</u>	<u>Cost</u> <u>1969-70 FY</u>
Administration	\$153,351.19
Total	\$153,351.19

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Achievements: During the fiscal year 1969-70 the service officers of the VVC made 40,196 contacts.

To accomplish our goal of assisting veterans, and their dependents, in claims to the Veterans Administration there were filed:

<u>823</u>	Compensation and Pension Claims
<u>420</u>	Death Claims
<u>1374</u>	Educational Claims
<u>756</u>	Dental Claims

In order to complete compensation, pension, and educational assistance claims the following documents were obtained for and filed with the Veterans Administration:

<u>1223</u>	Marriage Certificates
<u>1700</u>	Birth Certificates
<u>469</u>	Divorce Decrees
<u>463</u>	Death Certificates

The monetary benefits which we assisted claimants in obtaining from the Veterans Administration payments were as follows:

<u>\$689,243.00</u>	Compensation and Pension for Veterans
<u>\$279,199.90</u>	Death Benefits
<u>\$885,900.14</u>	Educational Assistance Benefits
<u>\$483,666.06</u>	Insurance
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$2,338,009.10</u>

MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS

1. PROGRAM: ADDITIONAL LOCAL OFFICE

REQUIRED IMPLEMENTATION ACTION: LEGISLATIVE

PRIORITY RATING: 1 to 5

CATEGORY: INCREASING EXISTING SERVICES

Recommendation. An additional \$14,000.00 annually should be appropriated to open a local service office in Havre.

Discussion. There is no local service office on the high-line between Kalispell and Wolf Point. The service officer in Wolf Point travels as far west as Malta. Localities from Chinook to Browning are served by the service officer from Great Falls. There are many Viet Nam veterans attending Northern Montana College at Havre who have problems. This in addition to the number of veterans in the Triangle area from Great Falls northward who cannot be served as they should be. The service officer tries but his time is limited when he is travelling. A resident service officer in Havre could give much more satisfactory service.

ANALYSIS OF PROGRAMS

The Federal Government through the Veterans Administration offers certain benefits to honorably discharged veterans. After their deaths there are benefits for certain dependents.

No benefit administered by the Veterans Administration is given automatically. All must be applied for on the proper forms. The principal benefits for veterans of all wars and certain peacetime veterans are: (1) Compensation for disabilities incurred in service. (2) Pension for veterans disabled due to non-service disabilities. (3) Hospitalization for either service connected or non-service connected disabilities. Non-service hospital care on a bed available basis for those veterans who certify they cannot pay for private hospitalization. (4) Out patient care for service connected disabilities.

Veterans of the Viet Nam Era are entitled to education and training benefits. They are also entitled to out patient dental care provided application is made within the first year after discharge from service.

The Veterans Administration has a home loan program for World War II, Korean, and Viet Nam Era veterans.

Certain seriously disabled veterans are eligible for specially adapted housing and assistance toward the purchase of an automobile.

It is the objective of the Veterans Welfare Commission to be sure that the veterans apply for the benefits to which they are entitled, and to assist them in obtaining these. It is also our goal to represent every veteran, who asks for our assistance, before the various sections of the Veterans Administration in order to obtain the benefits to which they are entitled.

Dependents of the veteran are entitled to certain benefits. Children and wives of totally disabled veterans due to service incurred disabilities or whose death was due to service incurred disabilities are entitled to apply for educational assistance benefits to the

Veterans Administration. The widows and orphans of deceased veterans are entitled to apply for either compensation or pension.

Again it is our goal to see that every dependent applies for the benefit to which they may be entitled.

During 1969-70 there was an expected increase in the number of live claims filed due to the return of veterans of the Viet Nam Era. There was also an increase in the number of death claims filed due to the aging of WW I and WW II veterans.

The following cost and performance summary is presented in summary form. Additional supporting data is available upon request.

FISCAL YEARS

	Historic 1968-69	Current 1969-70	Projected 1970-71
Cost	\$152,419.71	\$153,351.19	\$162,091.17
Performance:			
Contacts made	38,366	40,196	41,000
Claims filed	2,551	3,373	3,500

**PROGRAM COSTS BY OBJECT OF
EXPENDITURE AND SOURCE OF FUNDING
1969-70 Fiscal Year**

Program:

Administration of Veterans Affairs

Object of Expenditure	
Personal Services	\$122,490.92
Operations	30,078.04
Capital	613.83
Grants and Benefits	168.40
Returned to General Fund	2,372.11
Encumbered Funds	166.17
Total Expended	\$155,889.47
Source of Funding	
Encumbered Funds Carried Forward	\$ 169.47
General Fund	155,720.00
Total Funding	\$155,889.47

CROSSOVER MATRIX

NEW PROGRAM STRUCTURE

Present Program Structure	Program Costs 1969-70 FY	Veterans Affairs
Administration of Veterans Affairs	\$153,351.19	\$153,351.19

